

II. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-37 were pending in the case. Claims 7, 12, 13, 32, and 33 have been amended. Claims 38 and 39 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-39 are now pending in the case. Support for the added claims can be found throughout the specification as filed, *e. g.* at page 5, lines 9-16.

B. Objections Under 37 CFR § 1.75(c)

The Examiner has objected to claims 7, 12, 13, 32, and 33 under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 12, 13, 32, and 33 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what the Applicants regard to be their invention. Specifically, claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 38; claims 32 and 33 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 39. New independent claims 38 and 39 specify that “M is at least one transition-metal cation...”

It is believed that these amendments will fully address the Examiner’s concerns. This being the case, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 7, 12, 13, 32, and 33 under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) be withdrawn.

C. Conclusion

It is believed that the above remarks constitute a complete response to the Official Action. Applicants submit that in light of the foregoing remarks, the present case is in condition

for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 418-3000 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa J. Bowles

Teresa J. Bowles
Reg. No. 40,526
Attorney for Applicants

ARNOLD, WHITE & DURKEE
P.O. Box 4433
Houston, Texas 77210-4433
(512) 418-3000

Date: August 5, 1998